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PREDICTS NEW PURGE IN HUNGARY

SEEK TO UNDERMINE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' PRESTIGE -- Zurich Die Tat, 24 Jul 50

Signs are increasing that there is a new purge in Hungary in the offing. The arrest of former leading Social Democrats is not yet admitted, but ominous press commentaries have appeared. The Social Democrats are accused of being the moving spirit of workers' resistance against production increase and wage reduction in the plants. Efforts are also made to dig into the past of leading Social Democrats and to present them as traitors and Fascist collaborators -- the usual sign of a Communist purge.

Karl Peyer, former leader of the right wing of the Hungarian Social Democratic Party, now an emigre, is accused of having collaborated with the police under the Horthy regime and of having denounced left-wing extremists. Other Social Democrats, still living in Hungary, are named in the same breath with Peyer.

Evidently, there is a drive on to undermine the prestige of the Social Democrats among workers, who are turning a deaf ear to the Communists' appeals. In the systematic removal of Social Democrats from responsible positions, the expulsion of Minister of Justice Istvan Ries from the cabinet is noteworthy.

Ries made himself a name -- some say a fortune also -- as a defense attorney of the persecuted left wing under Horthy regime. As counsel for the Social Democrats he was a respected and incorruptible man. In spring 1945 he became Minister of Justice and subsequently was influenced more and more by Szakasits and other Communists.

During his tenure as Minister of Justice, impartial judges were replaced by Communists and left-wing Socialists. The first spectacular performance while he was minister was the prosecution of conspirators in the Moscow style, designed to compromise Bela Kovacs, a leading member of the Smallholders' Party. Ries was Minister of Justice at the time of the Rajk affair also.

- 1 -

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Erik Molnar, Ries' successor, was a historian and university professor. Before liberation he wrote radical newspaper articles. After the liberation he became Welfare Minister, in 1947 Minister of Foreign Affairs, and, finally, ambassador to Moscow. Like Eugene Varga, he is a returnee from Moscow and brings with him the latest directives for the sovietization of Hungary.

ISTVAN RIES RESIGNS FROM HUNGARIAN CABINET -- Zurich Die Tat, 18 Jul 50

Last Tuesday it was announced in Budapest that Minister of Justice Istvan Ries had resigned his cabinet post. He had been in office since 1945. Erik Molnar, former Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador at Moscow, has been appointed as his successor.

Ries was formerly a member of the Hungarian Social Democratic Party. In 1948 he advocated the union of the Communist and Social Democratic parties in Hungary.

It is believed that Ries' resignation is in line with the current intensive campaign against former Social Democrats. Recently, many Hungarians holding high positions in government or industry have been replaced by Communists. The reason given for the removal of these functionaries was that they used to be "right-wing Social Democrats."

SAYS PRIESTS OPPOSE REACTIONARIES -- Budapest Szabad Nep, 11 Jul 50

The Greek Catholic priests of Szabolcs-Szatmar County have issued a peace appeal to the lower Catholic clergy. The appeal points out that priests, under the influence of the reaction, are using their influence to block the Five-Year Plan. The fact that the lower clergy supports the people is, however, documented by the article of Dr Richard Horvath, friar-teacher, published in Magyar Nemzet last Sunday. Dr Horvath writes, "Assassination in the service of imperialism, that is, American intervention, does not fit into the moral content of Christianity . . . The largest American aircraft are bombing the towns and villages of North and South Korea, murdering women, children, and peasants working in the rice fields."

The lower clergy is actively fighting its own prelates who are in league with the Pruman crowd, which would like to re-establish in Hungary the corrupt, feudal banking clique.

An increasing number of Hungarian priests are opposed to those who whisper the terroristic rumors of the Voice of America.

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- 2 -

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